

REMARKS

I. Status of claims

By this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claim 8. Upon entry of this Reply, claims 1-6 remain pending and under current examination.

II. Regarding the non-final Office Action

In the Office Action of July 26, 2006, the Examiner allowed claims 1-6; rejected claim 8 as being 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,806,972 to *Daddis et al.* ("*Daddis*") and in view of U.S. Patent No. 5967,579 to *Saito et al.* ("*Saito*"). Applicant addresses the rejection below.

III. Regarding the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 8 over *Daddis* in view of *Saito* under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) because a case of *prima facie* obviousness has not been established with respect to these claims. However, to advance prosecution, Applicant has cancelled claim 8. The Examiner's rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has therefore been rendered moot by Applicant's cancellation of the claim.


IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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